

Message Text

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14 10

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 SS-20 ABF-01 GAO-03 DRC-01 RSC-01

A-01 /040 W

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O 011300Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4662

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 8467

PASS GAO FOR ELMER STAATS, PERSONAL FROM AMBASSADOR HELMS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AFSP, IR

SUBJ: VISIT OF GAO TEAM

1. I HAVE JUST RETURNED FROM WEEK IN WASHINGTON TO FIND GAO TEAM OF SIX PEOPLE ARRIVING HERE TOMORROW NIGHT (DEC 2) FOR AT LEAST THREE WEEKS INVESTIGATIVE VISIT, WHICH, AFTER CHRISTMAS, MAY CONTINUE ON INTO JANUARY. ACCORDING TO LETTER FROM FRANKFURT OFFICE, THIS TEAM IS COMING HERE TO "REVIEW US SECURITY ASSISTANCE TO IRAN."

2. I FURTHER UNDERSTAND FROM MESSAGES RECEIVED FROM STATE DEPARTMENT AFTER MEETINGS WITH YOUR REPRESENTATIVES IN WASHINGTON THAT THIS TEAM WISHES UNDERTAKE IN-DEPT STUDY OF TOTALITY OF OUR MILITARY RELATIONSHIPS WITH IRAN AND EXPANDING ON THIS REQUEST, WOULD LIKE TO LOOK INTO "TOTAL US EFFORT IN IRAN SUCH AS PEACE CORPS, USIA, FOOD FOR PEACE, ETC."

3. THIS IS MAJOR UNDERTAKING WHICH UNDER BEST OF CIRCUMSTANCES REQUIRES CAREFUL PREPARATION BOTH BY YOUR TEAM AND BY ALL ELEMENTS OF US MISSION. WE NATURALLY WISH TO BE AS RESPONSIVE AS POSSIBLE BUT GIVEN WHAT APPEARS TO BE WIDE-RANGING CHARTER ASSIGNED TO THIS TEAM TO LOOK INTO VIRTUALLY TOTALITY OF OUR ACTIVITIES IN IRAN, I AM CONCERNED OVER LACK OF SUFFICIENT ADVANCE NOTICE ABOUT SPECIFICS OF TEAM'S MISSION HERE TO ENABLE US TO PREPARE OURSELVES AS WE SHOULD. TO BE RESPONSIVE TO TEAM'S APPARENT TERMS OF REF-
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ERENCE WILL REQUIRE MAJOR EFFORT BY ALL ELEMENTS OF MISSION,

DEFLECTING THEM FROM MANY OTHER IMPORTANT TASKS WE FACE BETWEEN NOW AND CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS.

4. BEFORE DECIDING HOW MUCH TIME MEMBERS OF MY STAFF SHOULD DEVOTE TO THIS EXERCISE, I WOULD APPRECIATE HEARING FROM YOU BASIS FOR THIS VISITATION AND SPECIFICALLY WHAT GIVES RISE TO THIS VISIT AND NEED IT REFLECTS IN WASHINGTON. WE OF COURSE WISH TO COOPERATE IN ANY LEGITIMATE AND USEFUL INSPECTION BUT BEFORE I TURN MY MISSION INSIDE-OUT TO MEET THE WIDE-RANGING DEMANDS PUT ON US BY TEAM, I WOULD LIKE TO REASSURED BY YOU THAT THIS TRIP IS INDEED TOTALLY NECESSARY AND FULLY JUSTIFIED.

5. THIS INCIDENTALLY WILL BE THIRD GAO TEAM TO VISIT US RECENTLY- FIRST DEALT WITH STUDENT VISAS AND SECOND WITH ILLICIT NARCOTICS PROBLEM. SO FAR, RESULTS OF THESE INSPECTIONS HAVE NOT BEEN SHARED WITH US.
HELMS

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